

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A fine particle structure comprising a fine particle accumulated layer having fine particles arranged and accumulated, having provided thereon a layer comprising a molecule having a size larger than gaps among the fine particles.
2. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fine particle accumulated layer is a photonic crystal layer comprising the fine particles regularly arranged, having coated thereon a polymer substance having ~~a length~~ or a size larger than the gaps among the fine particles.
3. (Previously presented) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fine particles have a uniform size and are regularly arranged to form the photonic crystal layer.
4. (Previously presented) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the size of the gaps is
[equation 1]

$$2(\sqrt{2} - 1)R$$

wherein R represents a radius of the fine particles.

5. (Previously presented) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the size of the gaps is $2R$, wherein R represents a radius of the fine particles.
6. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymer substance comprises a chain polymer, a linear polymer or a helix polymer, and ~~the length~~ or the size is a length in a major length direction of the polymer substance.
7. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymer substance comprises a chain polymer, a linear polymer or a helix polymer, and ~~the length~~ or the size is a length in a minor length direction of the polymer substance.
8. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymer substance is in a coil form, and ~~the length~~ or the size is a length in a longitudinal direction of the coil.

9. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymer substance is in a coil form, and ~~the length or~~ the size is a length in a lateral direction of the coil.
10. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymer substance comprises a network polymer or a gel polymer, and ~~the length or~~ the size is a size of the network in a spreading direction.
11. (Previously presented) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymer substance comprises gelatin.
12. (Previously presented) An optical medium comprising a fine particle structure comprising a fine particle accumulated layer having fine particles arranged and accumulated, having provided thereon a layer comprising a molecule having a size larger than gaps among the fine particles.
13. (Currently amended) An optical medium as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fine particle accumulated layer is a photonic crystal layer comprising the fine particles regularly arranged, having coated thereon a polymer substance having ~~a length or~~ a size larger than the gaps among the fine particles.
14. (Previously presented) An optical medium as claimed in claim 12, wherein the molecular layer is provided as a protective film of a reflective type screen.
15. (Previously presented) An optical medium as claimed in claim 12, wherein the molecular layer is provided between a light diffusing layer and the fine particle accumulated layer as a photonic crystal layer of a reflective type screen, and no air layer intervenes among them.
16. (Previously presented) An optical medium as claimed in claim 12, wherein the optical medium is constituted as a light functional element.
17. (Previously presented) An optical medium as claimed in claim 16, wherein the molecular layer is formed as a protective film.
18. (Previously presented) An optical medium as claimed in claim 16, wherein the molecular layer is formed as a waveguide.
19. (New) The fine particle structure of claim 1, wherein:
 - (a) the fine particle accumulated layer is a photonic crystal layer comprising fine particles which have uniform size and are regularly arranged;

- (b) the layer comprising a molecule having a size larger than gaps among the fine particles is a coating comprising a polymer substance having a size larger than the gaps among the fine particles; and
- (c) the size of the gaps is the size of the gaps is
[equation 1]

$$2(\sqrt{2} - 1)R$$

wherein R represents a radius of the fine particles.

20. (New) The fine particle structure of claim 19, wherein the polymer substance comprises gelatin.

21. (New) The optical medium of claim 12, wherein the fine particle structure comprises of a fine particle accumulated layer having fine particles arranged and accumulated, having provided thereon a layer comprising a molecule having a size larger than gaps among the fine particles, wherein the molecular layer is provided between a light diffusing layer and the fine particle accumulated layer as a photonic crystal layer of a reflective type screen, and no air layer intervenes among them; and
wherein

- (a) the fine particle accumulated layer is a photonic crystal layer comprising fine particles which have uniform size and are regularly arranged;
- (b) the layer comprising a molecule having a size larger than gaps among the fine particles is a coating comprising a polymer substance having a size larger than the gaps among the fine particles; and
- (c) the size of the gaps is the size of the gaps is
[equation 1]

$$2(\sqrt{2} - 1)R$$

wherein R represents a radius of the fine particles.

22. (New) The optical medium of claim 21, wherein the polymer substance comprises gelatin.